

Virginia Board of Education  
Student Advisory Committee  
Minutes: January 5, 2006

Students in Attendance:

Victoria Artis, Daniel Morgan Middle School; Christina Azimi, James W. Robinson, Jr. Secondary School; Michael Burt, Hidden Valley High School; Taikein Cooper, Prince Edward County High School; Jennifer Deskins, Bruton High School; Vincent Feucht, West Point High School; Carlie Fogleman, Lebanon High School; Stacey LaRiviere, Bailey Bridge Middle School; Adrian Lehnen, George Washington, Middle School; Dion Quick, Hugo Owens Middle School; Franklin Tennyson, Hermitage High School; and Alexandra Whitehead, Staunton River High School.

Department of Education Staff in Attendance:

Dr. Patricia Wright, Anne Wescott, Michelle Vucci, Michelle Parker, Melissa Velazquez

Virginia Board of Education Members in Attendance:

Isis Castro, Eleanor Saslaw

Mrs. Castro and Mrs. Saslaw welcomed the 12 new members of the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) and paired the students up to introduce each other to the group. The SAC is composed of eight high school students representing each superintendent's region, and four middle school students, selected at large.

Mrs. Saslaw reviewed the SAC notebook, a copy of which was given to each student, and other administrative matters with the committee members. Information included the role and mission of the committee, expectations for the work of the committee and a review of the eight objectives in the Board of Education's Comprehensive Plan for 2005-2010. The SAC committee members were divided into three groups of four students. Each group was directed to identify two topics or issues that they felt the Board of Education may want to address. Each group was informed that after the group identified two issues those issues would be presented to the entire SAC for consideration. The SAC would then pick one issue from each group as the policy areas the SAC would research and present to the Board of Education for action.

The groups chose the following issues:

Group 1 chose Peer Mediation Programs and Alternative Methods of Discipline. Group 2 chose Student Awareness of the Real World and Smoothly Integrating Technology. Group 3 chose A Spirit of the Commonwealth Award and Recognition of Diversity of Interests in Education.

Representatives of each group presented the groups' two issues with explanations to the full committee. The entire committee determined the three top issues from the six presented. The issues chosen were Peer Mediation, Student Awareness of the Real World and A Spirit of the Commonwealth Award/Recognition of Diversity of Interests in Education.

The group that identified each issue will research it and make recommendations to the Board of Education. Each group identified the work that needed to be done and made assignments for the February meeting. Groups will work on and research their issues, and communicate to each other via e-mail prior to the February meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for February 14-15, 2006.